

choice legal scholars admit. The Unborn Victims of Violence Act is about simple humanity, simple reality.

A child in the womb, whether you call it a baby or a fetus, is alive, it is real, and it deserves our best efforts to protect it from criminal harm, and with the action of this body today, and with the action of the House of Representatives in the past, this act will become the law of the land, soon to be signed by the President of the United States.

ORGAN DONATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, it has been a satisfying day. Shortly, I will finish the day with a third issue which means a great deal to me. I will be asking unanimous consent for action on a bill that promotes organ donation, and for other purposes. I would like to close on that third topic.

The bill is called the Organ Donation and Recovery Improvement Act. For the 10, 12, to 15 years before I came to the Senate, that is what I had the privilege of doing, transplanting hearts and lungs together, for end stage disease, for people who would otherwise die but had the opportunity and blessing to be able to have taken out those diseased organs—out of somebody who otherwise would die usually within 3 to 6 months, and replace those with organs that would allow them to live 10, 15, 20, or 40 years.

It is marvelous what American medicine and science can do generally, but also that the good Lord allows that miraculous procedure to happen today. It was only imagined not too long ago.

This particular bill, which we will be passing shortly, represents the most significant reforms to organ donation in over a decade. It improves research, improves public awareness, and helps us improve the process, which makes organ transplantation possible. It is not hard to take the diseased organs out. The real challenge we have is finding the available, appropriate organs to transplant, actually implant into that chest. That is the shortage. People are dying every day, waiting for a heart, waiting for a lung, waiting for kidneys, a liver, or a pancreas, and the problem is the shortage of donors. But in truth, there are plenty of donors out there. It is how you get this potential supply to meet this huge demand. Right now, the supply is too small. When the demand is high, all these people are dying. If we increase the supply, these people begin to live. It is as simple as that. This legislation moves us in that direction.

I want to applaud the work of Senator CHRIS DODD, our colleague from Connecticut, who helped lead the fight to pass this legislation in the Senate, and also our colleague from New Hampshire, JUDD GREGG, chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, Pensions Committee, for his support. This particular bill that will pass tonight was passed by the House of Representatives yesterday. I recognize the leadership of

Representative BILIRAKIS and BILLY TAUZIN, who have been instrumental in leading this initiative in the House.

Organ donation is one of the most challenging issues we face today because of this supply-demand issue. The real supply is bigger than the realized supply, and that is what this bill sets out to achieve. About 82,000 to 84,000 people are waiting today for an organ to become available. Many will become available tonight—hopefully, a lot—tomorrow, and every day. But it is not enough. You have people dying.

I will be speaking principally, using figures on America, the U.S. While organ donations increased by 7.5 percent since 2002, it is a small increase. The 84,000 people waiting have far outstripped that in terms of the number of people added to the waiting list. By improving public awareness to encourage organ donation, we literally save lives, hundreds and thousands of lives.

This legislation takes a comprehensive approach. It will not solve the problem, but it is a comprehensive approach to increase organ donation and, at the same time, improving the overall efficiency of the organ donation process. I believe patients and families will soon benefit from this very important legislation tonight.

AMENDING THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT TO PROMOTE ORGAN DONATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3926, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3926) to amend the Public Health Service Act to promote organ donation, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3926) was read the third time and passed.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On October 21, 2000, in Fort Worth, TX, a 17-year old high school student was hospitalized after two peers alleg-

edly attacked him in a parking lot. The young assailants beat the victim and scratched anti-gay slurs into his car. The victim suffered a broken nose and numerous other injuries, including blood clots on his brain.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST CHRISTOPHER E. HUDSON

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Carmel, IN. Specialist Christopher Hudson, 21 years old, died in Abu Ghraib, just west of Baghdad, on March 21, 2004, during an attack when the Humvee he was riding in was struck by an improvised explosive device.

After joining the Army in November of 2002, Chris was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division based in Fort Hood, TX. Chris served as a gunner during his deployment, which began when his unit joined the efforts in Iraq one year ago. With his entire life before him, Chris chose to risk everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts. In a land halfway around the world.

Chris was the twenty-fifth Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. This brave young soldier leaves behind his father; his mother, Sally; his wife, Michelle; his 1-year-old son, Gavon; and 3-year-old daughter, Veronika. May Chris' children grow up knowing that their father gave his life so that young Iraqis will some day know the freedom they enjoy.

Today, I join Chris' family, his friends, and the entire Carmel community in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over his death, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Chris, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

When looking back on the life of her late husband, Chris' wife Michelle told the Indianapolis Star that he "was proud to defend his country . . . His family loves him, misses him and is very proud of him." Today and always, Chris will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Chris' sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks

as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Chris' actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Christopher E. Hudson in the Official Record of the United States Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Chris' can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God bless America.

OPPOSITION UNDER ATTACK IN BELARUS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, in recent days the Belarusian Prosecutor General's office opened criminal proceedings against one of the leaders of the embattled Belarusian democratic opposition, Anatoly Lebedka. Anatoly, who is chairman of the United Civic Party, has been accused of defaming Belarusian dictator Alexander Lukashenko during an interview with Russian television last month where he linked the recent Belarusian-Russian dispute over gas deliveries with the Belarusian authorities' failure to build an efficient economy. Anatoly also mentioned a shadow budget replenished through illegal arms sales and the cover-up of the truth about political disappearances in Belarus.

Given the pattern of behavior of the Lukashenko regime, it is crystal clear that this case is politically motivated and designed to suppress dissent. Lebedka's United Civic Party is a member of the Popular Coalition Five Plus, an opposition bloc which is planning to field candidates in this fall's parliamentary elections.

The action against Anatoly Lebedka and on the opposition fits squarely within a pattern of the suppression of independent thought and action in Belarus. Lukashenko's repression of those who would dare to challenge him has only intensified over the past year. Just last week, a criminal case was opened against the Belarusian Helsinki Committee chairperson Tatiana Protska and accountant Tatiana Rudkevich. This comes after politically-motivated economic sanctions were imposed on the Committee re-

cently. Also within the last few days, a court seized property of Iryna Makavetskaya, a correspondent for one of Belarus' leading independent newspapers, Beloruskaya Delovaya Gazeta.

Lukashenko has a choice—he can continue to act as a pariah, suppressing the voices of democracy in Belarus, or he can realize that the only way to reverse his self-imposed isolation from the international community and increasingly, from his own people is to end his offensive against democracy and civil society.

Meanwhile, it is essential that the United States back up its rhetorical support for democratic forces in Belarus through concrete assistance. Earlier this Congress, I introduced the Belarus Democracy Act, a measure with bipartisan support designed to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Belarus. In light of the campaign of repression against democratic forces in Belarus, timely consideration of the Belarus Democracy Act is warranted. I urge colleagues to support this important legislation.

CLOSING THE GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, three weeks ago the Senate passed an amendment during consideration of the gun immunity bill which would close the gun show loophole. I supported this amendment because I believe it is common sense gun safety legislation.

Under current law, when an individual buys a handgun from a licensed dealer, there are federal requirements for a background check to insure that the purchaser is not a person prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm. However, this is not the case for all gun purchases. For example, when an individual wants to buy a handgun from another private citizen who is not a licensed gun dealer, there is no requirement to ensure that the purchaser is not in a prohibited category. This creates a loophole in the law, which makes it easy for criminals, terrorists, and other prohibited buyers to evade background checks and buy guns. This loophole is the gateway to the illegal market because criminals know they are not subject to a background check and no record is made of the sale.

I cosponsored the amendment offered by Senators JACK REED and JOHN MCCAIN, which would close the gun show loophole, because I believe it is a critical tool in preventing guns from getting into the hands of criminals and other ineligible buyers. This amendment would have simply applied existing law governing background checks to individuals buying firearms at gun shows. Preventing easy and unchecked access to guns is critical in preventing gun violence.

This amendment also had the support of major law enforcement organizations including the International Asso-

ciation of Chiefs of Police, the National Troopers Coalition, the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, the Police Executive Research Forum, the Major Cities Chiefs, the National Association of School Resource Officers, the National Black Police Association, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, and the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association.

The gun industry immunity legislation would have provided unprecedented protection from liability to gun manufacturers and dealers, even in cases where their own gross negligence or recklessness led to someone being injured or killed. I opposed the bill and it was defeated in the Senate. However, before the bill was defeated, the gun show loophole amendment passed with bipartisan support. Given that, I hope the Senate will take up and pass gun show loophole legislation this year.

CBO REPORT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, at the time Senate Report No. 108-233 was filed, the Congressional Budget Office report was not available. I ask unanimous consent that the report, which is now available, be printed in the RECORD for the information of the Senate.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 22, 2004.

Hon. PETE V. DOMENICI,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 1107, the Recreational Fee Authority Act of 2004.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis, who can be reached at 226-2860.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN,
Director.

Enclosure.

S. 1107—RECREATIONAL FEE AUTHORITY ACT
OF 2004

Summary: S. 1107 would authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to establish, charge, and modify admission and user fees at units of the National Park System. Section 3 of the bill would allow the NPS to retain and spend all offsetting receipts collected under this authority without further appropriation. Both the authority to collect and to spend NPS recreation receipts would become effective on January 1, 2006, the day after the existing recreation fee demonstration program expires. (Created in 1996, the demonstration program authorizes the NPS and other federal land management agencies to charge higher recreation fees than would otherwise be permitted and to spend the proceeds.)

The effect of S. 1107 on total recreation fee receipts and spending would partly depend on how the NPS would use the bill's authorities in conjunction with current law following the expiration of the current demonstration program. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the NPS would use the authorities provided under S. 1107 to continue the